



OFFICE FOR CHILD AND
YOUTH PROTECTION

ARCHDIOCESE OF
PHILADELPHIA

Creating Safe Havens: The Impact of the Office for Child and Youth Protection

In an era marked by rapid social change and pressing global challenges, the positive role of community-centric organizations cannot be overstated. As the Director of the Office for Child and Youth Protection (OCYP), I am honored to highlight our commitment to creating and maintaining safe environments for children within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Founded in 2002, our mission is unwavering: to support the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's commitment to creating and maintaining safe environments for children and youth across our parishes, schools, and programs, while providing support to survivors of sexual abuse and their families. As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to share the significant strides we have made in safeguarding our community and supporting survivors.

Commitment to Safe Environments

In the past year, OCYP has made significant advances in safeguarding our community. Our rigorous screening processes have vetted thousands of volunteers and staff members. Additionally, more than 5,500 individuals have participated in our comprehensive training programs, which focus on child abuse prevention, recognition, and reporting. These efforts ensure that our community is well-equipped to protect its most vulnerable members.

Support for Survivors

Supporting survivors is a core part of our mission. This year, we facilitated access to mental health services for over 200 survivors and their families. These services include therapy, crisis intervention, and other mental health related services.

Prevention Initiatives and Community Partnerships

Prevention lies at the heart of our mission and it drives our multifaceted approach to child abuse prevention. Our initiatives span education, policy development, and community engagement. In 2023 alone, we convened over 500 community members through diverse education and outreach events. Our efforts are fortified by robust partnerships with schools, law enforcement agencies, victim and child-serving agencies, mental health professionals, and government bodies. Through extensive outreach, we've cultivated a culture of vigilance and support within the broader community, establishing vital networks of protection and assistance.

Looking Forward: A Vision for the Future



As we look ahead, our vision is clear: to continue expanding our prevention programs, deepening our community engagement, and leveraging technology to enhance our services and outreach. We are committed to evolving with the needs of our community, ensuring that our prevention and support efforts remain effective and impactful.

Gratitude and Call to Action

Our achievements are made possible by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and partners. As we continue this crucial work, I invite the community to join us in our efforts to ensure every child is protected and every survivor is supported. We are excited to share our latest impact report, highlighting the significant strides we have made in protecting children and supporting abuse survivors; we invite you to review the report and follow us on social media to stay updated on our ongoing efforts and initiatives.

Together, we can create a safer and more compassionate environment for all.

A handwritten signature in dark red ink, appearing to read "L. Davila". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a stylized "D".

Leslie J. Davila

Director, Office for Child and Youth Protection